

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 156882
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-01
SSM-03 SIG-01 ARA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 AID-05 IGA-02 ACDA-07 PM-04
NSC-05 SS-15 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 /110 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:REUNDELAND:RGH

APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN

S/PRS - MR. CARTER (INFO)

H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)

SSM - MR. MC ANDREW

NEA - MR. COLLUMS

NEA/ARN - MR. REUTHER

-----076246 062237Z /72

O 062153Z JUL 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION SINAI

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

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PAGE 02 STATE 156882

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
USCINCEUR

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - JULY 6

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE, FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR JULY 6,
1977:

Q. THERE HAS BEEN A REPORT THAT ISRAEL HAS RENEWED THE
REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO SELL KFIR FIGHTERS TO ECUADOR.
IS THAT TRUE, AND WHAT IS THE POSITION--

A. YES. LET ME SAY ON THE QUESTION OF KFIR FIGHTERS FOR
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PAGE 03 STATE 156882

ECUADOR, THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION IS UNCHANGED. I WILL
GO INTO BACKGROUND HERE. I THINK TO BE FAIR I SHOULD SAY
THAT THERE WAS A REQUEST THAT WE RECONSIDER THIS. IT WAS
MADE BY THE ISRAELIS, AND THAT RECONSIDERATION WAS DULY
TAKEN, AND THE RESULT IS THAT OUR POSITION IS UNCHANGED.

Q. WHEN WAS ALL THIS, LAST WEEK?

A. THE REQUEST WAS PUT BY AMBASSADOR DINITZ ON JUNE 27TH.
JUST TO ANTICIPATE, THE ISRAELIS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF
ECUADOR HAD BEEN INFORMED OF THE CONTINUING POSITION
ON THIS.

Q. WHEN WERE THEY INFORMED? WHEN DID THIS OCCUR?

A. THEY HAVE BEEN INFORMED AS OF TODAY. YOU KNOW, I
CAN'T GIVE YOU THE EXACT HOURS.

Q. DOES THIS MEAN THE ECUADORIANS RAISED THIS WITH
MR. CARTER, THIS ISSUE, AND THAT FAILING THIS PLANE,
THEY WILL BUY THE F-1 WHICH IS A FRENCH PLANE?

A. I REALLY DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT. I CAN ONLY SAY THAT MRS. CARTER DIDN'T INTERCEDE DIRECTLY ON THIS QUESTION, AND I THINK I WOULD HAVE TO REFER ANY OTHER QUESTIONS ON WHAT MRS. CARTER MAY HAVE HAD IN THE WAY OF CONVERSATION WITH ECUADORIAN OFFICIALS TO THE WHITE HOUSE.

Q. ARE THE GROUNDS OF REJECTION THIS TIME THE SAME AS BEFORE?

A. YES, THEY ARE.

Q. CAN YOU REPEAT THEM?

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PAGE 04 STATE 156882

A. I CAN PULL OUT THE OLD GUIDANCE: "AFTER STUDY, WE CONCLUDED THAT APPROVAL OF THIS PARTICULAR SALE WOULD RUN CONTRARY TO OUR OWN POLICY AGAINST THE TRANSFER OF ADVANCED AND SOPHISTICATED AIRCRAFT TO LATIN AMERICA." AS THE SPOKESMAN SAID ON FEBRUARY 7TH -- "THAT IS A LONG-STANDING POLICY, GOING BACK AT LEAST 15 YEARS."

Q. THE FACT THAT PERU IS NOW RECEIVING EQUIVALENT OR EVEN BETTER PLANES FROM RUSSIA, DOES THAT NOT CHANGE THE SITUATION AT ALL?

A. I THINK THAT ALL FACTORS WERE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION.

Q. DOES THE SECRETARY BELIEVE THAT MR. BEGIN, WHO RESIGNED FROM GOLDA MEIR'S CABINET IN PROTEST OF THE EGYPTIAN INSTALLATION OF SAM MISSILES ON THE SUEZ CANAL IN 1970 IS GOING TO BE EASIER TO DEAL WITH THAN MR. RABIN?

A. ONE OF THE REASONS WHY WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE CONVERSATION OF MR. BEGIN IS PRECISELY SO THAT MR. CARTER AND MR. BEGIN HAVE A CHANCE TO TALK TO EACH OTHER DIRECTLY, AND I THINK IT'S PREMATURE FOR ME TO SPECULATE ON ANYBODY'S POSITION AS ANYTHING ON THIS SUBJECT UNTIL THOSE DISCUSSIONS TAKE PLACE.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THE SYRIAN TROOPS' MOVEMENT TOWARDS THE SOUTH IN LEBANON?

A. WE HAVE BEEN IN REGULAR TOUCH WITH THE CONCERNED PARTIES ON THE LEBANESE SITUATION. AND OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT ALL PARTIES -- WHICH IS TO SAY GOVERNMENTAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 05 STATE 156882

PARTIES -- DESIRE CALM IN THAT AREA.

NOW, I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING SPECIFICALLY ON THE NEWS REPORT THAT WE HAVE SEEN ALLEGING THAT THERE WAS SUCH ACTIVITY. I HAVE NOTHING ON THAT.

Q. IS THERE ANY DECISION ON THE ARMS SALES TO IRAN THAT THEY HAVE REQUESTED?

A. NO.

Q. SINCE THE ISRAELIS ARE HELPING THE LEBANESE AGAINST THE PALESTINIANS, DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION THAT THE SYRIANS ARE HELPING THE PALESTINIANS ON THE OTHER SIDE?

A. I DON'T REALLY HAVE ANY KIND OF COMMENT TO OFFER ON THE MILITARY SITUATION IN THE SOUTH.

VANCE

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